United Nations A/C.2/61/SR.18

General Assembly
Sixty-first session

Official Records

Distr.: General
16 November 2006

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 18th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 23 October 2006, at 5 p.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Fonseca (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Brazil)

Contents

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*)

(c) Culture and development (*continued*)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*)

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06-58219 (E)

In the absence of Ms. Intelmann (Estonia), Mr. Fonseca (Brazil), Vice-Chairperson, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 5.15 p.m.

Agenda item 55: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/61/486)

(b) International migration and development (*continued*) (A/60/871, A/61/73, A/61/91, A/61/170, A/61/187, A/61/230, A/61/315, A/61/316, A/61/321, A/61/343, A/61/345, A/61/346, A/61/506, A/61/515, A/C.2/61/2)

(c) Culture and development (*continued*) (A/61/86, A/61/321 and A/61/378-S/2006/761)

(d) Preventing and combating corrupt practices and transfer of assets of illicit origin and returning such assets, in particular to the countries of origin, consistent with the United Nations Convention against Corruption (*continued*) (A/61/177)

(e) Integration of the economies in transition into the world economy (*continued*) (A/61/269, A/61/93, A/61/126 and A/61/181)

1. **Mr. Almajib** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that the benefits of globalization had been uneven, and greater international cooperation was necessary for them to be realized fully and fairly. Developing countries needed access to advanced technology to boost productive capacities. The recommendations of the Tunis Phase of the World Summit on the Information Society should be followed up in that regard. The global trade system should guarantee developing countries unrestricted access to markets. Developing countries were also in need of institutions to enhance economic performance, and there should be support for countries dependent on basic commodity exports to diversify their economies. Privatization and the market alone were not sufficient to resolve development challenges and institutional reforms to protect against economic fluctuations were also needed. Sound management and transparency were required in both national and international financial institutions. Increasing economic interdependence required a balance between national political priorities and international principles.

2. The recent High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development had reflected awareness on the part of the international community of the economic, social and cultural significance of migration. Migration could have beneficial effects on growth in both the country of origin and the destination country, if human rights and the right of States to protect their borders were upheld. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriya had stressed on many occasions that economic development in the countries from which migration flowed was the key to stemming illegal migration, and was committed to the African Union's plan for continent-wide economic integration. It had invested in agricultural and industrial projects and was trying to organize a meeting between African and European ministers on illegal migration. The effects of development also needed to be tempered by efforts to preserve national cultural identities.

3. **Ms. Tchitanava** (Georgia) welcomed the recent High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development, which had provided much-needed impetus to efforts to place migration issues on the international agenda. Effectively managed migration could be beneficial to all countries — whether countries of origin, transit or destination — but a number of urgent issues must be addressed in order to prevent illegal migration, trafficking, organized crime, terrorism and human rights abuses.

4. Georgia had been significantly affected by international migration. During the 1990s, the country's socio-economic situation had forced people to travel abroad for work and education, and it was estimated that more than 20 per cent of its population had left the country since it had achieved independence in 1989. Another factor had been the outbreak of conflict in two of the country's regions: Abkhazia and South Ossetia. As a result of its economic reform efforts, Georgia had become a more attractive place in which to invest and work. However, remittances were an important source of revenue for many Georgian households, and continued to grow as a percentage of the country's GDP. The provision of legal opportunities to work abroad was therefore very important to Georgia. Promoting and protecting the rights of migrant workers and minimizing discrimination against them should be the focus of international efforts, as should combating trafficking in human beings.

5. In the name of combating organized crime, terrorism and illegal migration, the Russian Federation was actively profiling and discriminating against Georgian citizens, including women and children. Strict tax inspections were carried out on every business associated with Georgians, and the police hunted down and detained anybody of "Georgian appearance". The mass deportation of migrants, regardless of their legal status, was conducted in an inhumane and humiliating manner. Such actions were a blatant violation of international humanitarian law. Moreover, since Georgia was a country of transit, the Russian embargo damaged not only the Georgian economy, but also those of neighbouring and other countries. In a world in which the international community was endeavouring to strengthen peace and security, promote human rights, and improve development, such conduct should be condemned as inadmissible.

6. **Mr. Alsaker** (Norway) said that technology alone, without the appropriate democratic policy framework, would do little to promote sustainable development and bridge the digital divide. Any Government wishing to enable its people to prosper and develop as members of the new global information society must promote and protect human rights, including the right to freedom of expression. Good governance played a crucial role with respect to all aspects of globalization, including migration. The recent High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development had provided a good opportunity to discuss how international migration should be managed and how migration could contribute to development.

7. It was expected that international migration would increase in extent and complexity owing to economic disparities, demographic trends and conflicts. Such multidimensional challenges must be addressed at all levels, including through multilateral cooperation, and the United Nations should play an important role in migration issues. Improving economic and political conditions, protecting rights in countries of origin, and ensuring a regulated and reasonable migration environment would benefit both rich and poor countries. In order to promote stability and growth, both the social and the economic effects of international migration should be addressed. The fundamental challenges were the same for all countries, but affected them in different ways. Countries must ensure rights-based and sustainable development which provided fair distribution and real opportunities for all people, whether nationals or immigrants, to find decent work and make a living. Moreover, the underlying factors that led to uncontrolled migration should be improved.

8. In order to address some of those issues, Norway would take specific measures in the following areas: the equitable distribution of labour rights, the gender aspect of migration, children and youth, flexibility of migration patterns, action to limit the brain drain, development of a cheaper and more secure system for private money transfers and participation in international efforts to combat human trafficking, based on prevention, protection and prosecution.

9. **Mr. Teymurov** (Azerbaijan) said he was pleased that science and technology as a multidimensional aspect of globalization had been identified as a focus of the Committee's deliberations, as they were central to the advancement of societies and to the achievement of socio-economic development and, in the context of globalization, remained a key factor affecting world growth and development. The promotion of technological innovation and scientific advancement should therefore be an integral part of development strategies. It was necessary to put in place policies that would enable developing countries to benefit from new technologies and explore, as well as utilize, their own technological capacities.

10. Azerbaijan's economic policy was based on the liberalization of economic activity, the dismantling of monopolies and the development of the private sector. As a result of recent market reforms, it had significantly improved its economic performance and attracted greater foreign investment. Those trends were expected to continue over the coming years, despite the occupation of 20 per cent of its territory. The bulk of foreign investment was in the oil and gas sector, which was the driving force for the whole economy. However, the Government was determined to develop the non-oil sector of the economy in order to diversify economic production and enhance its competitiveness in international markets. It was also pursuing administrative reforms aimed at enhancing the efficiency of public administration. The development of Azerbaijan's oil and gas resources and their delivery through the East-West energy corridor provided a solid foundation for sustainable economic growth and for the stability of the region, and was also helping to

diversify the energy supplies and energy security of European countries.

11. **Mr. Al-Hababi** (Qatar) said that, regrettably, the technology gap was widening not only between the developed and developing States, but among developing States themselves. Developing countries needed to know how to make maximum use of technology in the context of their individual needs. He expressed support for all the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report on the role of innovation, science and technology in pursuing development in the context of globalization (A/61/286). An enabling environment for technology acquisition needed to be created in developing countries by encouraging investment, especially in youth, and fostering commercial innovation and a spirit of partnership. Both the public and private sectors had a role to play in building infrastructure and creating technology transfer networks. Special attention needed to be paid to the priorities of developing States and creating solutions that were accessible to all. Development strategies also needed to be integrated more sensitively into the cultural traditions of each society. Cultural diversity and dialogue had an essential role to play in achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

12. In the era of globalization, migration was of particular concern to countries of origin, transit and destination. Remittances were second only to foreign assistance as a source of income for developing countries, and it was important to reduce their cost. While legal migration served to fill gaps in the labour market in destination countries, it also created a brain drain in countries of origin that needed to be stemmed. The Millennium Summit had addressed the issue of protecting migrants' human rights. In Qatar, all migrants' human rights were ensured.

13. His delegation welcomed the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Corruption was a major obstacle to the mobilization of resources for development and preventing it was important to achieving the Millennium Development Goals. National legislation and international instruments should focus on the return of assets of illicit origin to their countries of origin. Qatar called on the private sector, at the national and international levels, to follow up its commitment to fight corruption and invited the United Nations to ensure corporate responsibility on this issue.

14. **Ms. Simonova** (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)) said that the vast majority of international migrants were women and young people. While some found increased autonomy and freedom, others found themselves in gender-segregated and unregulated sectors of the economy. They often faced discrimination, exploitation and violence and, in the worst cases, became victims of ruthless traffickers.

15. The UNFPA report *State of World Population 2006* and the accompanying volume on youth migrants entitled "Moving Young" stressed the urgent need to integrate gender and human rights into migration policies and to curb trafficking. Specifically, stronger and more coordinated action was needed to support the victims and bring traffickers to justice.

16. While migration had an immense potential for advancing development, many countries, particularly in Africa, were suffering from a severe shortage of health workers as a result of migration. The brain drain was especially devastating for the countries most affected by HIV/AIDS and increased the likelihood that they would not meet the development goals. To strengthen health workforce capacity, donor support needed to be aligned with nationally defined strategies. Various initiatives had already been taken in that area and UNFPA remained committed to working with Governments and other partners to ensure that further progress was achieved.

17. The recommendations made at the 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo remained valid. In that regard, UNFPA continued to facilitate policy cooperation and to promote the human rights of migrants, including the right to sexual and reproductive health. It also supported national capacity-building for formulating and monitoring gender-sensitive migration programmes and for integrating migration issues into national development plans and poverty reduction strategies.

18. **Ms. Brandwayn** (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)) said that building capacity in science, technology and innovation should be an essential part of every country's strategy for achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Accordingly, policymakers in developing countries were establishing ministries of science and technology and investing more resources in targeted science development programmes. They were also seeking advice from international and regional organizations

which, in turn, were striving to improve their institutional capacity to respond effectively.

19. It had been widely recognized that FDI could be a vehicle for transfer of technology and, as such, a way to promote local science, technology and innovation development. To attract FDI, developing countries needed to create basic institutional frameworks that fostered innovation and strengthened domestic innovative capabilities.

20. UNCTAD assisted developing countries by conducting national investment policy reviews at their request. Those reviews were currently being expanded to include an analysis of the impact of FDI on the development of domestic technical capabilities, by improving competitiveness and contributing to export diversification and increased revenues.

21. **Mr. Bahlouli** (United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)) said that, in its efforts to help the poor generate income and to foster economic growth through wealth creation, UNIDO placed particular emphasis on specialized programmes for entrepreneurship and private sector development that generated new jobs and reduced the exodus of migrants. It also offered services in small enterprise and business development, the development of agro-industries, the creation of a conducive investment climate and the diffusion and transfer of modern technologies.

22. UNIDO helped to stimulate economic growth in poor countries of origin by advising governments on industrial policies and strategies that created non-farm employment and income in rural areas. As industrialization progressed, UNIDO offered services such as investment promotion, trade capacity-building and technology transfer to stimulate further economic growth.

23. Finally, at the high-level segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2006, UNIDO and the International Labour Organization had organized a round table to discuss the problem of unemployment among the young, particularly in West Africa. It was expected that a demonstration programme would soon be implemented in West Africa to address the pressing problems of unemployment in that region.

24. **Mr. Piminov** (Russian Federation), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the Committee could conduct a fruitful debate only if all delegations adhered to the agenda in a constructive spirit. Unfortunately, a large part of the statement by the representative of Georgia had been tendentious and irrelevant to the item under discussion and intended to politicize the Committee's work. The Russian Federation wished to cooperate with all countries on matters of migration: millions of people arriving in Russia found shelter and work there, and the billions of dollars transferred by migrants helped to stabilize the situation in their home countries. Of course, the Russian State ensured compliance with its laws, including the laws regulating the sojourn of migrants in its territory. Since illegal migration had close connections to crime, it was natural for law-enforcement measures to be taken against migrants who broke the law. That was a right and a duty.

25. **Ms. Tchitanova** (Georgia), speaking in exercise of the right of reply, said that the discriminatory measures against Georgian migrants had been documented by Russian agencies and NGOs and that the topic was relevant to the agenda of the Second Committee.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.